

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, and 15 are currently amended. Claims 2 and 15 are amended to overcome objections because of informalities and not to overcome any art. Claims 3 and 17 are canceled. Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments contained herein are fully supported by the Specification as originally filed and do not contain new matter.

Objection to the Specification

The Specification was objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for claimed subject matter. The Specification has been amended to overcome the objection. Support for the amendment is found at least in the claims as originally filed.

Objection to the Drawings

The drawings were objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). A Replacement Drawing Sheet for Figure 2C is enclosed that shows the exposed portion of source region 240 through insulator layer 275, as required by the Examiner. Claim 17 is canceled, mooted the objections to the drawings with respect to claim 17. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the objections to the drawings are overcome.

Claim Objections

Claims 2 and 15 were objected to due to informalities. Claims 2 and 15 have been amended, as suggested by the Examiner, to overcome the objection.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-2, 4-6, and 8-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim (U.S. Patent No. 6,001,685) in view of Wu et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,309,975) and Applicant's Admitted Prior Art. Claims 1-2, 4-6, and 8-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jenq et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,159,788) in view of Wu et al. and Applicant's Admitted Prior Art. Applicant respectfully traverses.

Claim 1, as currently amended, includes the limitations of claim 3. On page 16, paragraph 7, of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claim 3 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, and indicated that claim 3 would be allowable if rewritten in independent

form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore, since claim 3 depends directly from claim 1, claim 1, as currently amended, is equivalent to claim 3 rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, so claim 1 is allowable.

Claims 2, 4-6, and 8-16 depend from claim 1 and are thus allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1. Therefore, claims 2, 4-6, and 8-16 should be allowed.

Claim 17 is canceled, mooted the rejection thereof.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 3 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 3 is canceled, mooted the objection thereto.

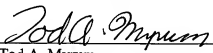
CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks, Applicant believes that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. Please charge any further fees deemed necessary or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 501373.

If the Examiner has any questions or concerns regarding this application, please contact the undersigned at (612) 312-2208.

Respectfully submitted,

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